

## **CRAIG INTERAGENCY DISPATCH CENTER 2003 YEAR – END REPORT**

The 2003 fire season was statistically a near normal year as far as number of wildfires (417)\*, but was below average on number of acres (2,030 ac.)\*. Resource Order requests began in February for support of the Space Shuttle incident followed by Aphis and the Newcastle incidents. Late spring the Center began supporting the Southwest Area for wildfire incidents and continued support to Rocky Mountain Area, Northern Rockies, California, and Eastern Great Basin throughout the summer.

The fire season in Northwest Colorado started in mid-April and continued into late October. The center experienced 53 multi-fire days with the maximum fires for one day at 38. The center supported 7 Type 3 incidents, 13 Wildfire Use Fires (1611 ac.), and 13 prescribed fires (3061 ac.).

Staffing at the Dispatch Center continues to be a challenge. One permanent position and the two seasonal positions were unfilled this past season, which inhibited the availability of the dispatch staff to take off-unit assignments. Night Dispatch was staffed by personnel from the local USFS and BLM units utilizing the dispatch rotation, which is set up at the beginning of each season. Expanded dispatch consisted of one to two people (detailed in) running ROSS. That was their primary focus, which enabled the Initial Attack dispatchers to concentrate on initial attack.

A type 3 CWN helicopter was kept in the dispatch zone for most of the summer on a severity order. It was used primarily for initial attack and in support of type 3 incidents.

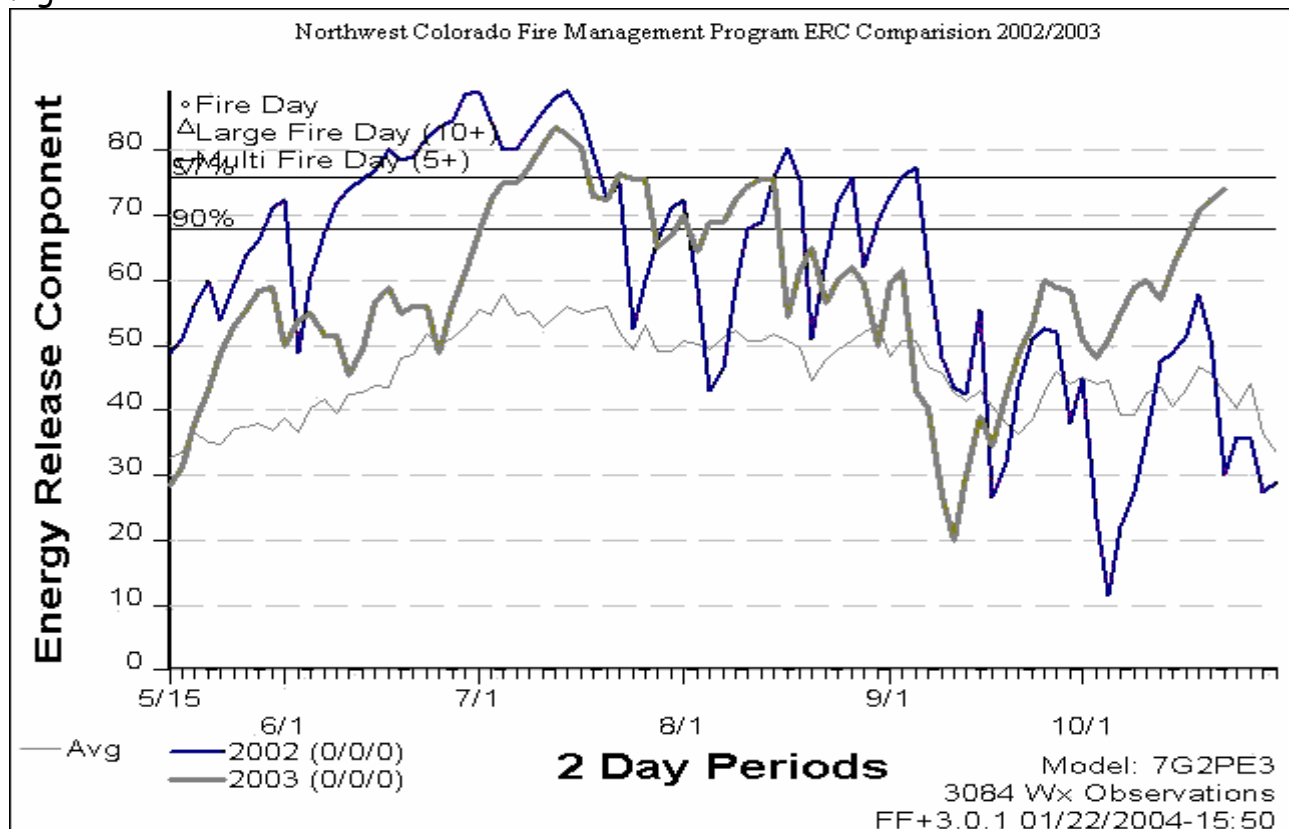
The Dispatch Center processed 815 Incident Actions which included wildfire suppression, prescribed fire support, wildfire use support, all risk incidents (space shuttle, hurricanes, chicken virus, etc), burned area rehabilitation, support of the wild horse, wilderness, and wildlife programs, flight following for the regional bug flight, public assists, and 48 flight requests.

\* does not include WFU's

## FUELS AND WEATHER

Energy Release Component (ERC) is used within the Northwest Colorado Fire Management Program as an indicator of fire season severity. As an index, ERC depicts weather trends that affect the moisture levels in dead fuel and vegetation. For our purposes it describes dryness in a format that has a more stable tendency than the other indices and relates to dryness in fire weather as well as fuels. Figure 1 displays the ERC index for the past fire season in comparison with 2002. 2002 was the most historically active fire year for the higher elevations of the program area and provides a good benchmark in which to compare fire season trends. Average worst conditions are displayed above the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile for weather data years of 1984 through 2003 during a fire season of May 1<sup>st</sup> through October 31<sup>st</sup>. The 90<sup>th</sup> percentile represents an ERC of 68 on the index. Of the 184 weather days recorded in fire season 2003, 46 were at or above the average worst condition. This equates to 25% of the fire season days in a state most likely to burn. This was a decrease from 2002 in which 42% of the days were at or above the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile.

Fig 1



The nearly average to average snow pack during the winter of 2002 - 2003 did little to moderate the long-term drought that continues in Northwest Colorado, nor did a cool and damp spring. The fire season started in earnest in mid-to late-May with a

series of small fire use fires as well as suppression incidents. Over-all, it was a fairly normal fire season with a total of 417 fires burning 2,030 acres on the fire management unit. It was a fairly busy season on the Fire Use side of the coin with a total of 13 WFU incidents covering about 1,611 acres. Of these, two were in Dinosaur National Monument each 0.1 acre in size, 3 were on the Little Snake Field Office that burned 4.35 acres, and 8 were on the White River Field Office which burned 1,608.4 acres. Yankee Gulch was the largest WFU at 1501 acres and was managed for nearly two months from late June through mid-August. The Right Fork WFU started in the middle of a planned prescribed burn project in the Texas Mountain area. It burned about 100 acres in late August, and was converted to a prescribed burn on September 1<sup>st</sup>.

The prescribed burning program was fairly active on the unit this year. One burn was completed and a second started during July in Dinosaur National Monument. They burned 262 acres during the year. The Little Snake office did three burns for 1218 acres and the White River office had two burns for 1328 acres. The Routt National Forest conducted three burns for a total of 75 acres. The unit totals were 13 prescribed burns for 3,061 acres.



Yankee Gulch WFU July 5, 2003



Yankee Gulch WFU July 3, 2003

## Wildland Fire Use Projects

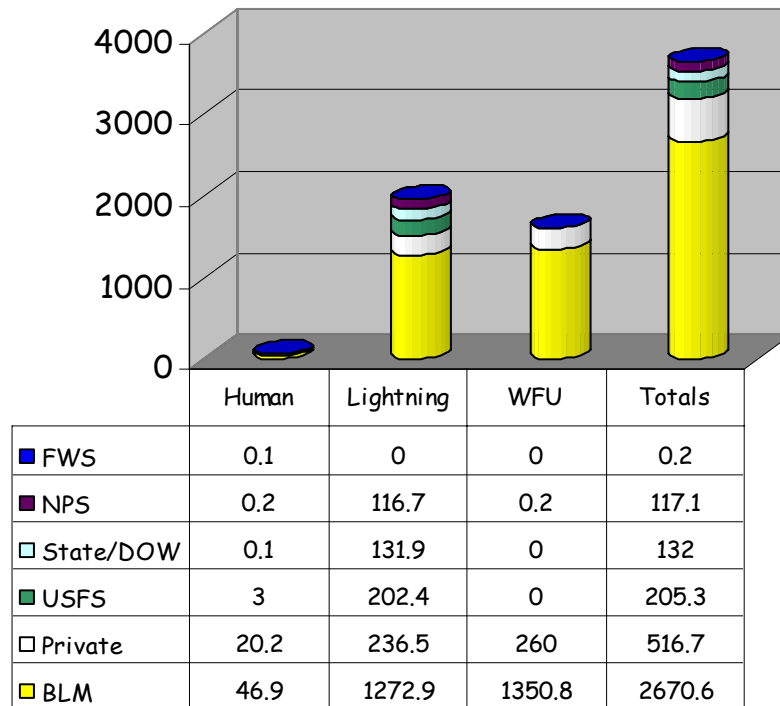
Incident Name	Start Date	Out Date	BLM	Dinosaur	Private
Horse	05/18	06/06	2.0 ac		
Rabbit	05/24	06/02	0.1 ac		
Peekaboo	05/24	05/28	0.1 ac		
Choke Cherry	05/26	06/02	0.25 ac		
Bear	05/31	06/06	0.1 ac		
Rocky Ridge	05/31	06/06	0.1 ac		
Blue	06/12	06/23	4.0 ac		
Whodo	06/15	06/20	3.0 ac		
Cleopatra	06/16	06/23		0.1 ac	
Boies	06/16	06/24	0.1 ac		
Yankee Gulch	06/16	08/11	1241 ac		260 ac
Law	06/17	06/23		0.1 ac	
Right Fork	08/21	09/01	100 ac		
Totals			1,350.75	.2	260



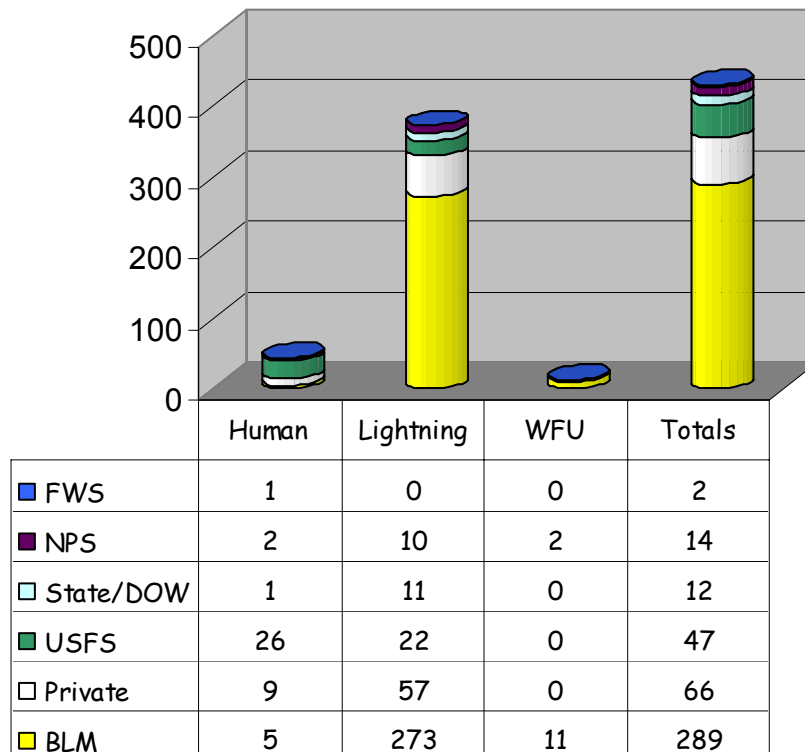
## Fuels Projects

Project Name	BLM			USFS			NPS	FWS	State/DOW
	Mech	Burn	Total	Mech	Burn	Total			
Magnolia	456		456						
Powerline	300	85	385						
Texas Mountain		1230	1230						
Elk Springs	13	13	26						
Jack Springs	20	20	40						
Boulevard Fuel Break	38	38	76						
Ryegrass Mech.	480		480						
Ryegrass Rx		600	600						
Lower Brown's Draw Rx		400	400						
Boulevard Mech	78		78						
Upper Brown's Draw Rx		160	160						
Disappointment							112		
Pearl Park							150		
Gould				63		63			
Dry Lake				108	5	108			
Lester					15	15			
Hoy Marsh Rx								178	
Red Dirt				63	55	63			
Stagecoach				130		130			
<b>Totals</b>	1385	2546	3931	364	75	379	262	178	

**Acres per Agency by Cause**



**Number of Fires per Agency by Cause**



## CRC Fire Statistics

Cause	BLM*		USFS		NPS		FWS**		State		Private		Totals	
	#	Ac	#	Ac	#	Ac	#	Ac	#	Ac	#	Ac	#	Ac
Human	5	46.9	26	3	2	.2	1	.1	1	.1	9	20.2	44	70.5
Lightning	273	1272.9	22	202.4	10	116.7	0	0	11	131.9	57	236.5	373	1960.4
RX	8	2546	3	75	2	262	1	178	0	0	0	0	13	3061
Mech	7	1385	4	364	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	11	1749
WFU	11	1350.8	0	0	2	.2	0	0	0	0	0	260	13	1611
<b>Totals</b>	<b>304</b>	<b>6601.6</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>644.4</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>379.1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>178.1</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>132</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>516.7</b>	<b>454</b>	<b>8451.9</b>

\*See next chart for breakdown of BLM Units

\*\*Both fire and Rx occurred at BPR



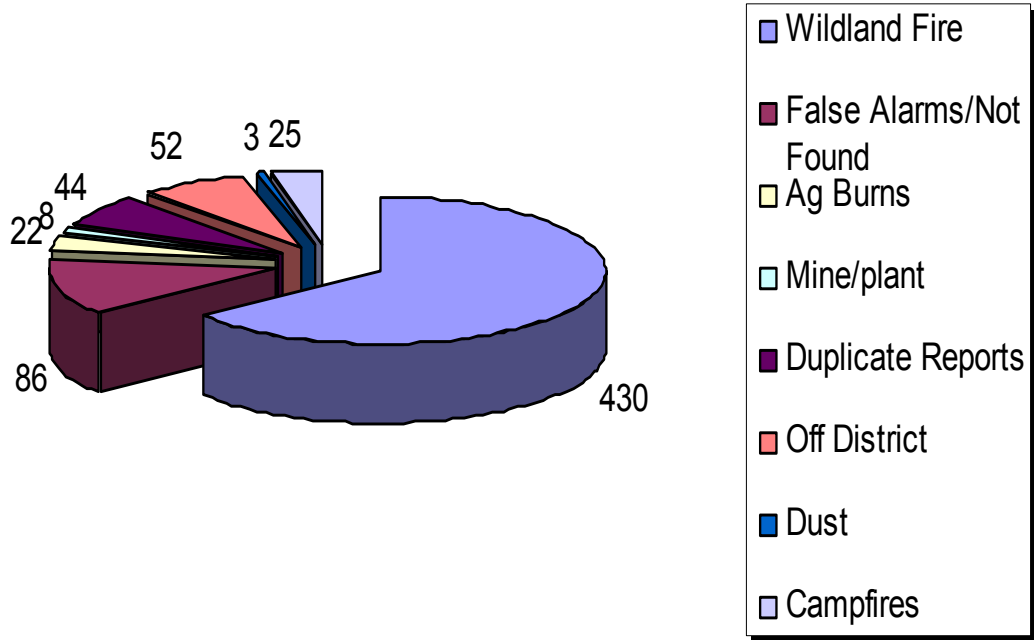
Yankee Gulch WFU

### BLM Fire Statistics by Unit

Cause	WRD		LSD		KRD	
	#	Ac	#	Ac	#	Ac
Human	3	46.3	1	.5	1	.1
Lightning	184	1129	87	141	2	.2
RX	3	1328	5	1218	0	0
Mech	3	769	2	616	0	0
WFU	8	1346.4	3	4.35	0	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>201</b>	<b>4618.8</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>1979.8</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>.3</b>

## Incident Action Summary

### CRC Smoke Reports



### Historical Incident Actions

2003	2002	2001	2000	1999
815	676	737	798	459



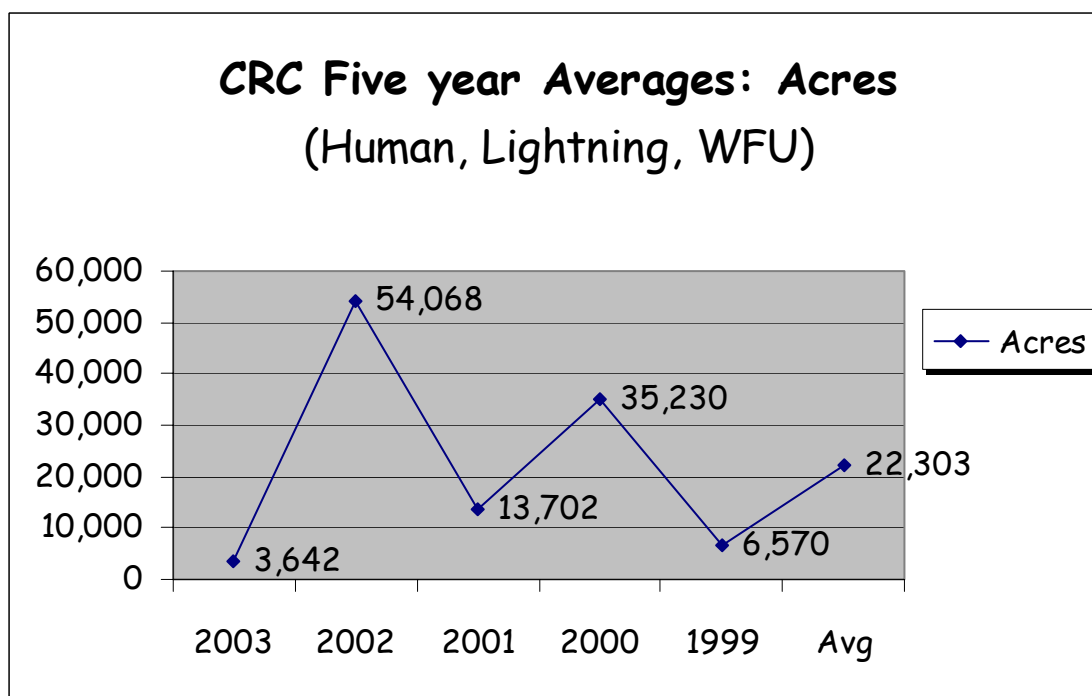
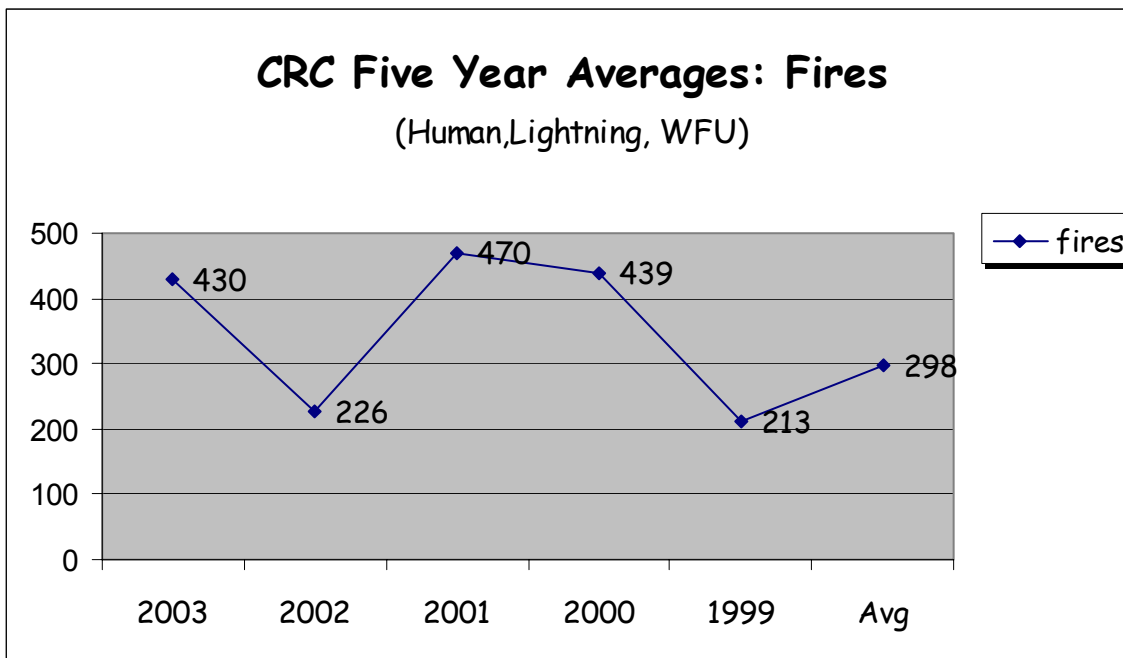
## 2003 Large Fire Summary

Incident	Start Date	Cause	Final Acres	Agency	State & Unit	Team(s) Name	Team Type
Yankee Gulch	06/16/03	L	1503	BLM	CO-WRD	Rogers Frary	WFU
Peterson	07/21/03	L	115	NPS	CO-DSP	Hoffman McShane	Type 3
Red Rock	07/26/03	L	134	BLM	CO-WRD	Naccarato McShane	Type 3
Morgan Bottom	07/28/03	L	214	STATE	CO-CRS	Skidmore Naccarato	Type 3
Sawtooth	07/29/03	L	200	USFS	CO-RTF	Cahur Hessler Scott	Type 3
Thompson Springs	08/06/03	L	764	BLM	CO-WRD	Rogers Harris Lawson	Type 3
Winter Elk	08/13/03	L	165	BLM	CO-WRD	Harris Webb	Type 3
Right Fork	08/22/03	L	100	BLM	CO-WRD	Rogers Frary	WFU



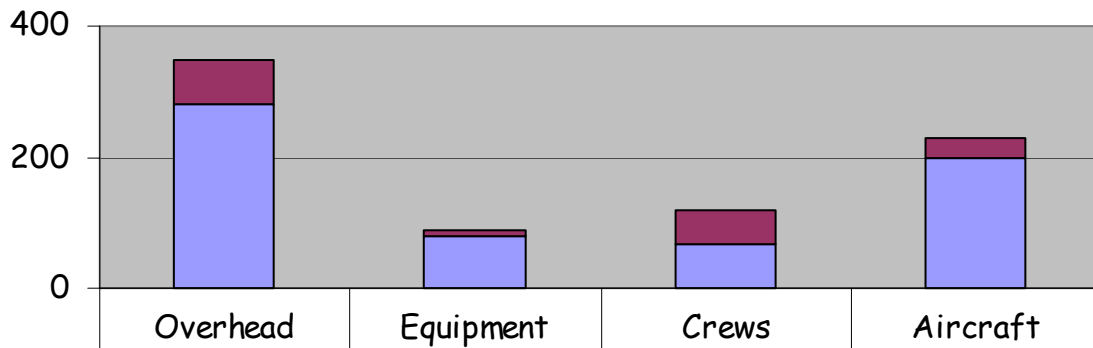
**Sawtooth Fire, August 2003**

## 5-Year Averages: Fires and Acres



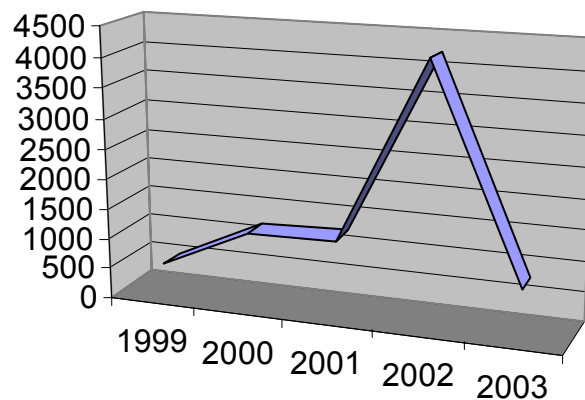
## CRC Resource Order Statistics

### 2003 Resource Orders



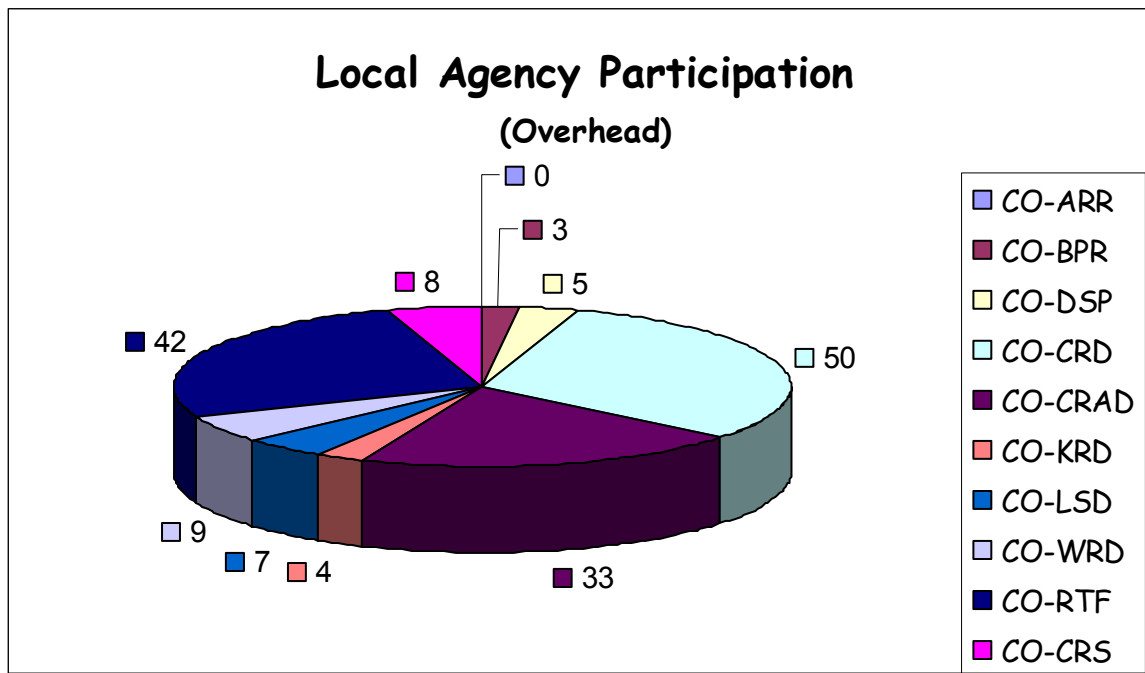
Unfilled	69	10	52	30
Filled	280	79	67	198

### Resource Order Requests Processed



	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Total	518	1196	1234	4235	785

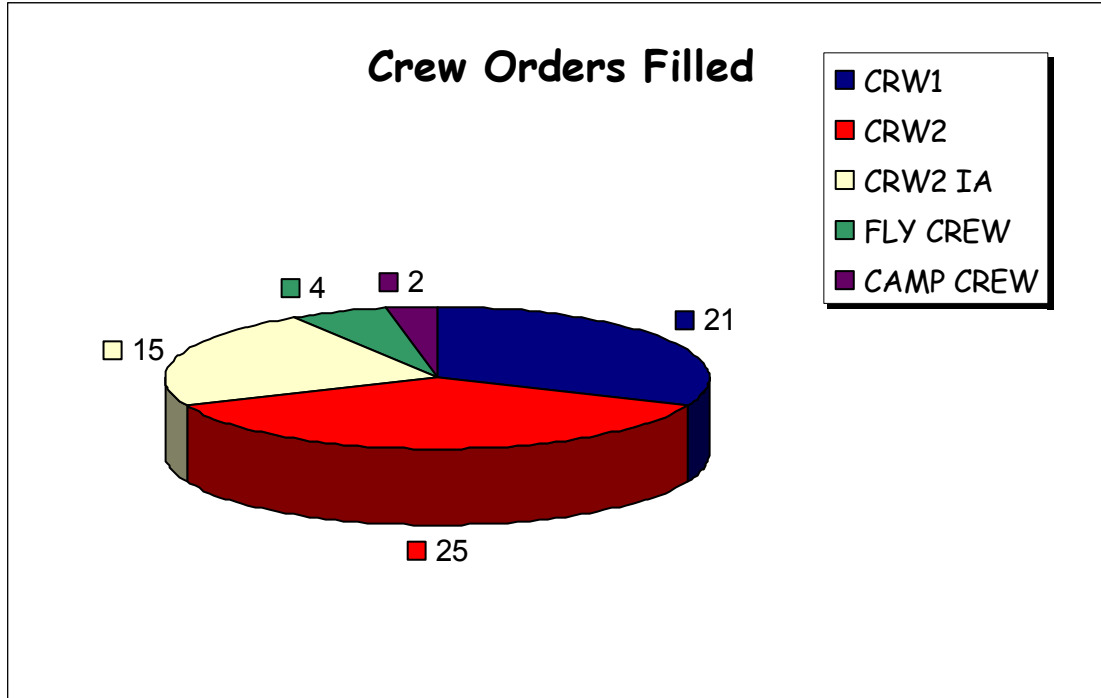
## Overhead Summary



## 2003 Resource Order Statistics Workload By Unit (Including UTF's and CX)

	WRD	LSD	KRD	RTF	DSP	BPR	CRC	COUNTIES/ STATE	TOTAL
Overhead	32	0	0	34	11	5	110	0	192
Crews	26	1	0	3	4	0	1	6	41
Equipment	33	2	0	5	10	2	18	1	71
Aircraft	108	13	0	36	19	0	8	28	212
TOTALS	199	16	0	78	44	7	137	35	516

## Crew Summary



### 67 Crew Orders Processed

	LOCAL	REGIONAL	NATIONAL
Type 1	11	4	6
Type 2	18	2	5
Type 2 IA	7	8	0
Camp	0	2	0
Fly	4	0	0
TOTAL	40	16	11

#### Craig Hotshots, Type 1 Crew

The Craig Hotshots were on fires for 96 days on 22 assignments. 7 local assignments for 7 days; 5 regional assignments for 23 days; 10 national assignments for 66 days.

#### Yampa Valley Interagency Type 2 Crew

The Yampa Valley Crew were on 11 assignments for 89 days. 6 local assignments for 17 days; 3 regional assignments for 40 days; 2 national assignments for 32 days.



## Historical Crew Usage within CRC Zone

(Includes local and visiting crews, Type 1 &2)

Year	Number of Crews	Number of Days
1995	10	40
1996	37	146
1997	1	5
1998	17	83
1999	23	Not Available
2000	71	228
2001	93	342
2002	135	1051
2003	30	85

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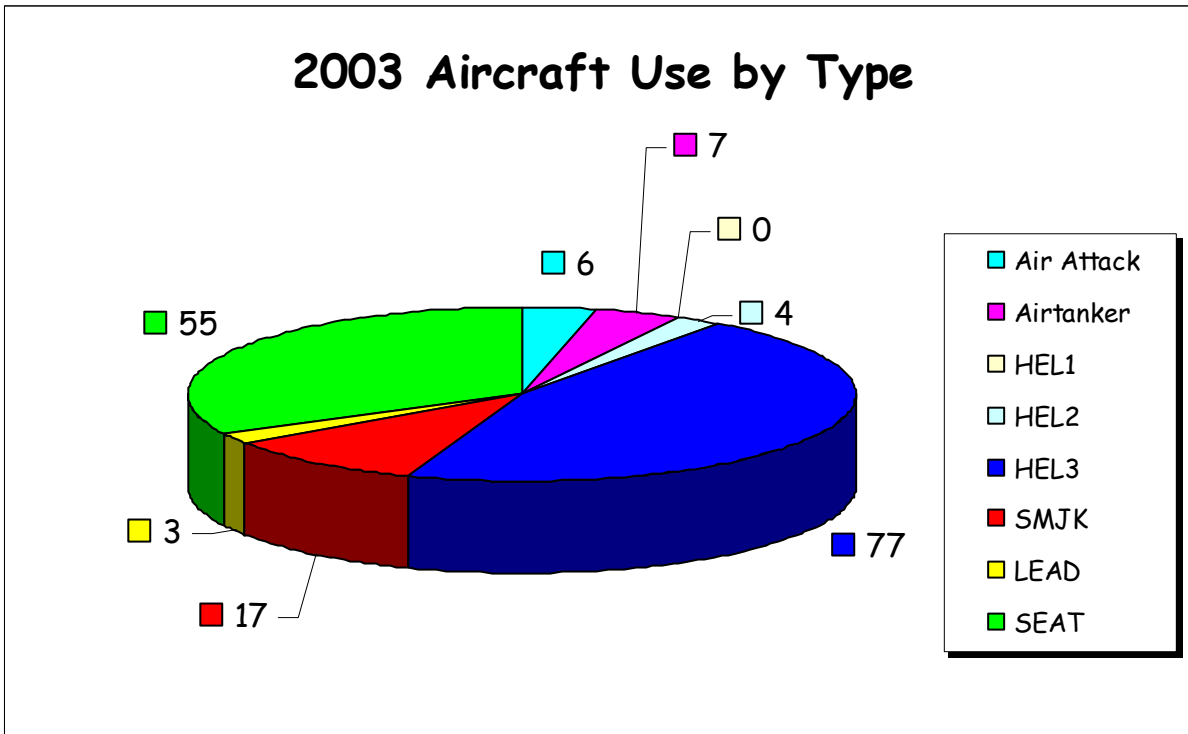
## Equipment Summary

35 Engine Orders were filled and 10 Water Tender orders were filled

### Local Engines sent off District

Home Unit	Engine #	Ordered to:	Days Assigned
CO-DSP	E-683	UT-ASF	4
CO-CRD	E-611	AZ-CBR	14
CO-RTF	E-681	AZ-HVR	14
CO-RTF	E-617	WY-MBF	2

## Aircraft Summary



## Historical SMKJ Activity

(From GJC, # of Jumps)

UNIT	2003	2002	2001	2000
CRD	-	-	36	27
WRD	7	20	See CRD	See CRD
LSD	-	8	See CRD	See CRD
RTF	24	37	-	13
MFX	-	2	-	-
DSP	21	-	-	-
TOTAL	52	67	36	40

## Historical SEAT Usage

(Number of Orders)

2003	2002	2001	2000	1999	1998
55	50	19	5	5	4

